

# KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

## Record Seal Application and Procedure



Welfare & Institutions Code Section 781 states you have the right to petition the Juvenile Court to seal your Juvenile Court record and records in the custody of other agencies, including law enforcement agencies and public officials, after one of the following occurs:

- Five years or more after the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court has terminated.
- Five years or more after you were cited to appear or were taken before a probation officer or any officer of a law enforcement agency where no petition was filed in Juvenile Court.
- At any time after you reach the age of 18.

The following subjects are not eligible:

- Subjects who were adjudicated of a WIC 707(b) offense at age 14 or older.

The Probation Department will most likely recommend the Court **not seal** your record if you do not meet the following criteria for suitability:

- Must be at least 19 years of age.
- Off any type of probation status for **at least one year** for misdemeanor convictions or **at least one to three years** for felony convictions.
- Paid off any outstanding restitution and/or restitution fines
- Not currently on probation/parole or are incarcerated
- If you are currently pending Court proceedings or were recently convicted of charges.
- Successfully rehabilitated
- Must not have received a “dishonorable discharge” from the California Youth Authority or the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation - Division of Juvenile Justice.

It should be noted, the decision to seal a record is made by the Judicial Officer, not the Probation Department. Although the Probation Department may recommend against the sealing of a record, your application for a record seal will still be processed at your request.

Additionally, pursuant to WIC Section 903.3, the fee for completing the Record Seal Petition shall be one hundred twenty dollars (\$120). A separate Court fee of ninety dollars (\$90) will be collected prior to the filing of the Petition to seal said record. If the Court denies the record seal, the fees will not be refunded.

If you would like to petition the Court for a record seal, please follow these steps:

1. Pay \$120 record seal fee at Probation Accounts Receivable at the Juvenile Justice Center. Get a receipt.
2. Completely fill out application and bring along with photo, copy of I.D., and receipt of payment to: \*\*

Juvenile Hall  
1831 Ridge Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

3. While at Juvenile Hall, you will be required to provide your fingerprints and a photo will be taken \* (Saturdays and Sundays are usually better days to accomplish this).
4. The investigation process will begin and you will be contacted if further information is required. If you do not qualify for a record seal, you will be contacted and **the fee will not be refunded.**
5. A Petition to Seal Records will be completed and you will be contacted to return to the Probation Department to pick up three (3) copies of the Petition. Take all copies to the Court Clerk's Office at the Juvenile Justice Center and pay the \$90 Court processing fee. The Clerk will take the Petitions and give you back one (1) copy.
6. You will receive notice of your hearing by mail. Your appearance is not mandatory.
7. Once the record has been sealed, you will receive notice by mail.

\*Exceptions can be made in cases of travel hardships (i.e. military personnel stationed out of state/country).

\*\*If you live outside of Kern County, you will not be required to have your fingerprints and photo taken at Juvenile Hall. Simply complete the application and send it to the following address, along with the receipt of payment and copy of photo identification.

For additional information contact:  
Kern County Probation Department  
Deputy Probation Officer Matthew D. Gomez  
2005 Ridge Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
(661) 868-4197